

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of June 2, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this amendment, Applicant amends the specification, amends claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10, and adds claims 12-16. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending in the application and reconsideration of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, rejects claims 1-2, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,205,431 to Willemain et al. (hereinafter "Willemain"), and rejects claims 3-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Willemain.

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claims 1, 2, and 5 are hereby amended to redress the issues cited by the Examiner. Applicant amends claim 1 whereby the term α is "an allowable probability of underestimating an average failure rate." See paragraph 37 of the specification. Regarding the other instance of the α term, claim 2 recites "calculating a time interval when the probability of a next unscheduled component demand event equals $1-\alpha$."

The Examiner rejects claim 5 as being indefinite. In response, Claim 5, as amended, recites "eliminating, from within the at least one variable pertaining to component usage, insignificant variables and variables that cause multicollinearity from each of the established

models.” Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1, 2, and 5, not only resolve the antecedent basis issue regarding the term “variables,” but addresses the issue raised by the Examiner regarding the recitation of claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1, 2, and 5 overcome the rejection.

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 1-2, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated Willemain. The rejection of claims 1-2, and 7 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited reference in that the claim recites “establishing a set of statistical models for a probability of unscheduled component demand as a function of at least one variable pertaining to component usage.” Nothing in the cited reference, Willemain, teaches at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claim 2-6, and 12-13, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited reference.

The rejection of claim 7 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Independent claim 7, as amended, is allowable over the cited reference in that the claim recites “establishing a set of statistical models for modeling unscheduled demand for the components, wherein the statistical models are each a function of at least one variable pertaining to component usage.” Nothing in the cited reference, Willemain, teaches at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 and claims 8-11, and 14, which depend from claim 7, are allowable over the cited reference.

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 3-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Willemain. The rejection of dependent claims 3-6 and 8-11 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 3-6 are

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allowable over the cited reference in that these claims, as they depend from independent claim 1, recite "establishing a set of statistical models for a probability of unscheduled component demand as a function of at least one variable pertaining to component usage." Similarly, claims 8-11 are allowable over the cited reference in that these claims, as they depend from independent claim 7, recite "establishing a set of statistical models for modeling unscheduled demand for the components, wherein the statistical models are each a function of at least one variable pertaining to component usage." Nothing in the cited reference, Willemain, teaches at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-6 and 8-11 are allowable over the cited reference.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
202-496-7500 (Tel)
202-496-7756 (Fax)

Respectfully submitted,

By: Matthew T. Bailey Reg. No. 41,786
Matthew T. Bailey
Registration No.: 33,829